



THE VOICE

Making disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH / SEPTEMBER 2021



*The installation of Pastor Erin Heidelberger as Lead Pastor at First Lutheran Church on August 22, 2021.
[Watch an online photo video of the installation ceremony.](#)*

Happy to be Here

by Pastor Erin Heidelberger; First Lutheran Lead Pastor

Over the summer, I heard lots of stories of friends and family finally coming together after months of separation. No doubt many of you experienced the same thing during the pandemic. Grandkids couldn't visit grandparents. Friends didn't get to see one another in person. New babies didn't get introduced to the whole family.

Social media and technology have been incredible gifts during this time to ease the sting of separation a bit. But, we all know that there is no real substitute for being together and sharing the same space. That may seem like

an overstatement of the obvious, but we have never collectively felt that in such a profound way. Vaccinations - at least for a time - decreased cases and made it possible for many reunions to finally happen.

Over the last months, I have heard about you, First Lutheran Church. I have read about you and talked about you. But now I get to be here with you and there is no substitute for that. This week as I've begun to settle in at First Lutheran, I am giving thanks to God that I get to be here and walk with you, partnering with you for the sake of the One who claims and loves each one of us.

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Adult Forum

Sundays; 9:30-10:30 am; Chapel & Zoom

Info: connie.kisling@gmail.com

Recordings at <https://vimeo.com/flclincoln>

September 5 – No Adult Forum - Labor Day Weekend.

September 12 – Kick-Off of New Learning Year: “Forward Together at First” – Stop by the Chapel to learn more about the Adult Forum and its offerings (No formal forum presentation).

September 19 – Get to know Pastor Erin Heidelberger and family – Q & A time.

September 26 – Kicks for Kids – Donice Kasper, First Lutheran member.

Bible Studies - Tuesdays 5:45 pm and Wednesdays 10:45 am; Zoom & In-Person

Tuesday's group is studying the Gospel of Luke and Wednesday's group is studying the book of Proverbs. Join in anytime!

Info: pastorerin@flclincoln.org

Coffee Talk - Mondays; 1:30 pm; In-Person; Location varies weekly
Info: sharon@flclincoln.org

A Few Good Men Bible Study - Tuesdays; 7:00 am; Zoom
Info: rockwell@windstream.net

Faith to Go! - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays; 6:30 am; Zoom
Info: tlbeermann@hotmail.com

Gather and Gab - Thursdays; 8:00 pm; Zoom
Info: sharon@flclincoln.org

Saturday with the Guys - 2nd Saturday; 8:00 am; In-Person
Info: jim.kisling@gmail.com

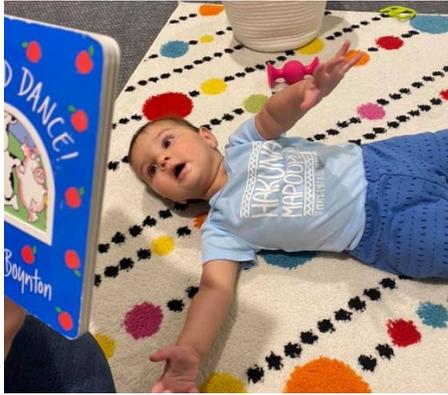
Women's Bible Study Circles - Varying times and dates
Info: cyndi@flclincoln.org

Few Spots Still Open in Dimensions After Enrolling Over 200 Children

BY MICHELLE ZIMMER

DIMENSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Dimensions staff enjoyed time together and learning and working during our professional development week. Our teachers have done Zoom Home Visits which give the child and their family the opportunity to meet the teacher in a familiar environment. (Normally, teachers would go to the family's home.) Dimensions also offered a night of classroom visits for children and families to come in and see the classrooms and chat with teachers before the first day. The school year is off to a great start and we are excited



to have welcomed over 200 children between the three locations. If you know someone who might be interested in a spot for their child, please have them fill out an application [using this link](#). We have a few spots at each location that we will begin to fill.

New Learning Year: Forward and Onward

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12; 9:30-10:30 AM

INFO: LINDSEY@FLCLINCOLN.ORG OR SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Cor. 5:17) will guide our new learning year and help us to begin our new life together.

Join us to explore the learning ministries at First Lutheran for members of all ages! The Adult Forum, Youth and Children Ministries, Bible Studies and other small groups like, Coffee Talk and Gather and Gab, will showcase the learning opportunities they have to offer you. Here is just a little of what you can look forward to (COVID protocol will be followed):

- Make musical instruments from recycled plastics as a way of making a new creation, rather than adding trash to our earth.
- Make a take home snack reminding you of the new land flowing with milk and honey Moses and the Israelites were promised during the Exodus.
- Learn about Adult Forum and what will be offered in the coming months.
- Enjoy some coffee with our “Coffee Talk Group.” *(continued on page 3)*

Confirmation: Dinner+Learning

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 1 & 15; 6:00 PM

INFO: SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

During the month of September we will be looking at the Bible and how the series of books came to be and what they have to say to us today. We will meet in person, but due to COVID we will try to meet outside as much as possible. Any adult, of any age, is welcome to join the 7th and 8th graders and their parents if they would like to have a refresher course or have never been through a Lutheran Confirmation program in the past.



*Confirmation kicked off the new year on August 18 at
Roberts Park!*

Music Ministry News

INFO: MASAKO BACON; MUSIC@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

Our worship music schedule in September includes:

September 5 – Small Vocal Ensemble (8:15 am & 10:45 am)

September 12 – Jazz Team (8:15 am & 10:45 am)

September 19 – Adult Choir (8:15 am) / Cherub Choir (10:45 am) / Spirit Ringers (8:15 am & 10:45 am)

September 26 – Adult Choir (8:15 am) / Chorister Choir (10:45 am)

Children and Youth of All Ages: Join a Choir

Being a part of a children's choir is one of few opportunities for children to play a leadership role during worship. Children learn songs and percussion music to praise God. Learning worship music builds children's faith, as well as their musical abilities. Cherub Choir (grades K-2) meets on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45 pm with songs, drums and boomwhackers. The choir is directed by Jan Modica. Chorister Choir (grades 3-6) meets on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45 pm with songs and Orff instruments. Erin Niebuhr directs the Chorister Choir. COVID protocol will be followed to protect our children.

Adult Choir (high school age and up) meets Wednesdays from 7:10-8:10 pm in the Sanctuary. The first rehearsal of the year will be on September 1. Members will rehearse spread out with masks. It may not be everyone's preference, but our priority is to care for our church family while still continuing to praise God. The choir will sing at 8:15 am worship on odd months (September, November, etc.) and 10:45 am worship on even months (October, December, etc.). Boyd Bacon is the Adult Choir Director.

Our handbell group, Spirit Ringers, meets every Thursday from 7:15-8:15 pm and plays on the 3rd Sunday each month for both worship services. If you are interested, contact Masako Bacon as every ringer needs to be assigned a bell. Masako Bacon is the director.

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New Learning Year: Forward and Onward (cont)

(cont from page 2) FaithTrek, middle and high school learning will meet on Sundays at 9:30 am and will all focus on a "Word of the Month." The September word of the month will be, "Creation." They will also partner with Adult Forum for an Intergenerational Faith Formation event the first Sunday of each month starting in October. Stay tuned for more information!

Helping Kids Put Their Best Foot Forward

SEPTEMBER 18-OCTOBER 3

INFO: DONICE KASPAR; DTKASPAR@WINDSTREAM.NET



**NEW ATHLETIC SHOES FOR
KIDS IN NEED**

For the sixth year in a row, First Lutheran will be holding the Kicks for Kids campaign to help put shoes and socks on the feet of kids in need. This year we are expecting a need of 230 pairs of shoes from the 11 schools that we partner with in our community and who will specifically identify the students in need. Look for the Kicks for Kids display and pick a tag for a specific child starting September 18. The tag will tell you the gender and size of the student to shop for. If you rather, you can also donate money for others to shop for kids which is especially appreciated as prices of shoes have gone up. Shoes and socks must be returned to church by October 3 so they can be delivered to the waiting child. Thanks for helping kids put their best foot forward!

CROP Walk to Help Feed the Hungry

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10; 1:00 PM; BETHANY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 1645 NORTH COTNER BLVD.

REGISTER AT WWW.CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG/LINCOLNNE

INFO: SANDY LATSHAW; SJLATSHAW@OUTLOOK.COM

The 2021 Lincoln/Lancaster County CROP Hunger Walk will be offered in-person or virtually at your convenience one week before or after the walk date. Register for the walk, then ask friends, relatives, co-workers and family members to sponsor you by donating online at the Lincoln CROP webpage. The walk will begin with registration at 1:00 pm, a commissioning at 1:25 pm and the walk at 1:30 pm. There will be a sign-up/information table in the Commons on Sunday, September 19 and October 3, for First Lutheran walkers who may prefer to sign-up in-person and receive a walker packet. CROP is encouraging donations to be made online, but in-person collection is still an option.

Noisy Offering to Offer Relief to Wildfires

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

INFO: [LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE](#)



A prolonged drought and extreme heat waves are causing wildfires to spread rapidly in the western United States and makes them difficult to contain. California is currently the hardest-hit state — the Dixie Fire, in Northern California, is already the second largest wildfire in the state's history, having burned over 505,000 acres. Tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and hundreds of buildings have been destroyed. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is working with synods and social ministry organizations in California and

other western states to develop a coordinated response to the wildfires with the most immediate need being food and other necessities. Our Noisy Offering in September will support the relief efforts of LDR in California. Last month's Noisy Offering provided \$104.26 for the Lincoln Food Bank's BackPack Program.

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Middle and High School Youth Invited to Picnic and Livestream Concert

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2; 6:00 PM

INFO: SHARON@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

All middle and high school youth are invited to a picnic and live streamed concert by American contemporary Christian singer and songwriter, Lauren Daigle, known best for her cross over hit, "You Say". The location will be determined closer to the time. There are several youth from 6th – 12th grade serving on a planning team to help plan events for the middle and high school youth group this coming year. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Soft Capital Campaign Inches Closer to Goal

NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10

INFO: BRYAN@FLCLINCOLN.ORG

Our soft capital campaign is inching closer to its goal of \$700,000 with a pledge total at the time of this publication of \$559,551! The campaign will conclude on September 10 so please consider contributing to this important campaign to pay down the mortgage and save interest expense.

Hannah Ruch to Serve on Synod Council

Hannah Ruch, a high school member of First Lutheran, was recently selected to serve on the Nebraska Synod Council. The Council is the board of directors of the synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the synod assembly. Hannah shares, "I am excited to see what goes on behind the scenes and to be able to advocate for the youth of the Nebraska Synod!" Hannah is joined on the Council by First Lutheran member, Dara Troutman, who currently serves as Vice-President.

Congratulations, Hannah!

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COVID Update

INFO: DENISE MAINQUIST;

DEEMAIN12564@YAHOO.COM

In light of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Public Health Department's change in the COVID risk dial and corresponding directions that masks should be worn indoors, the Council voted at their August 10, 2021, meeting to amend the COVID Task Force recommendation from recommending masks to requiring masks indoor at First Lutheran Church, including during our worship services. Thank you for caring for each other.

Member Happenings

Our prayers and sympathies extend to Marilyn Lohrberg and family on the passing of her husband, Bob, on August 5, 2021. We also pray for Pastor Bill Peterson, our recent Interim Associate Pastor, who suffered a stroke on August 6. He is currently recovering at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Honesty in Prayer

BY CAROL OLSON; CAROLINROMA@YAHOO.COM

Just two months ago I shared a spiritual practice to celebrate a new freedom in response to a lessening of restrictions. Now, again, circumstances have changed with the pandemic. Many more people are falling ill, especially young people. It is a scary time. The Psalms have guided humans in ways to pray for millennia. Have you ever looked at the emotions described in the Psalms? They include praise, anger, frustration, even asking God for revenge on their enemies. The Psalms teach us to be honest in our prayer to the Divine. A frequently used phrase in the Psalms is “*how long?*” “*How long?*” may be a prayer for the pandemic. Here’s a sample from Psalm 13:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

When I was young I often heard, “*If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all*”. While this was mostly directed towards conversations with other people, it was also assumed that this was our stance to prayer with God. However, we are missing the point if we only talk to God about good things. God can bear our anger and frustration and harsh words. God loves us completely, regardless of our feelings. Before you pray, pay attention to not only what is on your mind and heart, but also what is present in your body. Take your whole self to the Divine in prayer. Include in your prayers any physical sensations, concerns or pain. God can bear it, wants to hear about it and loves you completely! If music helps you to pray, listen to the song, 40, by U2. It is based on Psalm 40 and the repeated refrain is, “*How long to sing this song?*”

Drink from the Well: Spiritual Formation for Adults

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 14: WWW.SEEKINGTHESPIRITWITHIN.ORG

INFO: PAT OR EMILY; DFTWNESYNOD@GMAIL.COM

Drink from the Well is a program of spiritual formation for adults, offering teaching and prayer practices to help receive the fullness of life in Christ and the richness of God’s mercy. Anyone can participate from anywhere in the world! Register and learn more the program at the website above. Consider inviting a friend or family member to journey with you.

Care Callers to Reach Out to All Members

INFO: BARB JOHNSON FRANK; BJOHNSONFRANK@GMAIL.COM OR EUNICE FISHER; B_EFISHER@YAHOO.COM

During the month of September a team of Care Callers - members who have the gifts of listening, kindness and prayer - will be calling each member of First Lutheran. The pandemic continues and we are nearing an 18 month
(*continued on page 9*)

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Camp Carol Joy Holling Impacts Lives of First Lutheran Members

by Alexis Sandman, First Lutheran Member and Camp Staff

When I was looking for a summer job I wanted something unique, but that would also keep me involved in the health care field. In March, I accepted a position at Camp Carol Joy Holling (CJH) in Ashland as a health care specialist. As a former camper, I was excited to be in a familiar spot and to also be able to play a role in the life of a camper. When training started in May, I was going through a rough patch in my life. I was preparing to take my boards for athletic training and serving as president of my sorority. But, my spiritual life took the biggest hit. The second I arrived at CJH, I felt the peace and belonging I remembered feeling

as a camper. While working in the health care office I also got to participate in bible study, worship, and the most important part, making friendship bracelets. Looking back, God granted me this opportunity to walk alongside campers on their faith journey, but to also help grow my faith. No one's faith journey will ever look identical, just like each person is unique. While there may be rough patches ahead, as our campers learned this summer, just follow Joshua 1:9. Be strong and courageous!



by Jenna Troutman, First Lutheran Member and Camp Staff

I wanted to work at Carol Joy Holling last summer, however, due to the pandemic, it was decided, out of an abundance of caution, to not hold summer camp. So this summer I decided to apply again because I was so excited to work last summer. A lot of my friends at college worked at their home summer camps and talked about their amazing experiences and my campus pastor told me that he thought it would be really good for me. I was super excited from the time I was hired in March to when I was finally on camp grounds for staff training! And camp was amazing! I worked with

children from 1st grade through high school. I led them through their day going from horses, high ropes, crafts, worship, meals, archery and bible study. Our theme, *Fearless*, reminded the kids throughout the day that they could be fearless with God because God is with them wherever they go. Coming home from camp was hard. I loved my experience so much and the kids taught me so much about myself and about God. I feel more solidified in my calling after working at camp and I can't wait for camp again next summer!

by Emily Seebohm, First Lutheran Camper

First Word in the mornings at camp was so magical because it's at sunrise and the light is truly worth seeing. I felt God with me during high ropes. I feel like he helped me conquer my fears and get through the whole course. I love how you get to go swimming every day. But, the best thing about camp is the snow cones. There are so many flavors and they are all delicious! *(continued on page 8)*



Camp Carol Joy Holling Impacts Lives of First Lutheran Members (cont)



Kaitlyn with Camp Staffer,
Jenna Troutman

by Kaitlyn Brock; First Lutheran Camper

I liked the zip line and the high ropes course at camp. They were high up in the sky and it was really fun. It made me a little scared at first, but it turned out to be really cool. I also liked night swimming. We went at 7:00 pm and it was super fun. Paddle boating and hiking was fun, too. The food is really good. You have dessert every night! I liked the worship services, too. I loved making s'mores by the campfire. The counselors made up stories called, smorgasbords. Ours was about a zoo and every counselor made up a song that went along with the story. I felt God's presence when I was trying to fall asleep. It was hard to go to sleep being away from home, but we prayed and it helped. My favorite memory is of all the friends I made in my village and at the camp. I would tell anyone thinking about going to camp, "Do it! It's fun!" I'm going to go for two weeks next summer!

by Cora Hoeft, First Lutheran Camper

The best part of Camp Carol Joy Holling for me was all the team games. We would go to a spot in the woods and do all sorts of obstacles together. Some of the memories I made were making friends with our counselor and fellow campers. We also made lots of friendship bracelets! We all loved hanging out with the horses and having fun just messing around. I would recommend anyone to go to camp. You make so many new friends from different places and even some people in your hometown you didn't know before you went to camp.



Cora enjoying pool time with camp
friends!



by Stephen Fisher, First Lutheran Camper

I liked my counselor, C.J., at camp this year. She was amazing! She did fun activities with me. We went swimming and she made me a beaded bracelet. You make lots of new friends at camp and they have the best food!

by Audrey Boyle, First Lutheran Camper

This summer I had the chance to go to Camp Carol Joy Holling and I've gotta say, it was one of the best weeks of my life. Throughout the day we would do different



activities, like ziplining, high ropes course and swimming. In the morning and evenings, we would go to worship, and in the afternoon, we would have bible study. One of my favorite memories was performing at open mic night with my friends. I had so much fun with our act and I enjoyed watching the others. I learned a lot at camp and I think that everyone who has the chance should go. You won't regret it.

"Forward Together at First" Stewardship Campaign

INFO: MARK WEMHOFF; MARKWEMHOFF@GMAIL.COM

We have overcome a lot this past year – a pandemic that brought isolation, loss, sadness, loneliness and worry into our lives and staff turnover that meant the end of relationships and the forming of new ones. Our world has changed. But, one thing remains the same – we are still the body of Christ moving forward and transforming the world together as his disciples. Our 2021 Stewardship Campaign theme, *Forward Together at First*, reminds us that we are all being called to move forward - together - with a renewed vision, energy, commitment and sense of community.

With Pastor Erin's arrival the Stewardship Committee is currently working with her on new ideas for stewardship and ones that might be centered around this year's theme. Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming *Forward Together at First* campaign!

Care Callers to Reach Out to All Members (cont)

(cont from page 6) benchmark that is unique in our congregation's history. Every member of the congregation now knows what it feels like when daily life is disrupted and in-person worship ends. For some length of time or another - new member, longtime member, previously-active or not active for years - we've all been away from the church building. This moment of time offers a unique opportunity for all of us to now move forward together. It wouldn't make a lot of sense to go back to "business as usual," pretending that nothing happened or is going on. A pandemic and its consequences are pretty hard to ignore, especially alongside the challenges, heartaches, joys and celebrations that life so often brings.

The Care Calls are an opportunity for you to express your individual or family needs and share what faith-related priorities have emerged for you, as well as your hopes and dreams for First Lutheran. We invite you to answer the phone when your Care Caller reaches out to you or return their call should you miss it. At First Lutheran, your voice matters! YOU matter!



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Each person is a unique creation of God and, through grace, is a child of God. The people of First Lutheran Church welcome all because God welcomes all, without regard for race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status, physical or mental challenges, imprisonment, addictions, socio-economic circumstances, or anything else that too often divides us. First Lutheran Church is a spiritual community that celebrates the gifts of God that can empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Our unity is in Christ.

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